

EXERCISE: Construct a prayer that calls on the Holy Spirit to help to transform the sins that most assail you into the fruit or character that is promised to believers.

- ◆ Begin with your “sorry” for those acts of deception that come to mind you need to repent of
- ◆ Continue with your “thank you” for God’s unmerited and gracious mercy so freely given through faith in Christ
- ◆ Finish with your “please”; a request for God’s transforming power to be at work by the Holy Spirit to help you speak and act truthfully

10 Commandments

#9 Speak the Truth

Exodus 20:16 “You shall not give false testimony against your neighbour”

A Popular Pastime

File through the last week’s major newspapers and cut out some articles that give evidence that telling the truth is still as difficult as any other time in history.

Q.1 What are some of the commonalities to the stories?

Q.2 Can you identify whether false testimony is reserved to rich or poor, male or female, this nationality or that?

READ Proverbs 6:16-19

Q.3 List the things that God detests according to this passage.

The “Father of Lies”

READ John 8:43-45

Q.4 Jesus spoke to some of the most religious and upstanding members of 1st Century society in this passage. What are some of the implications of his condemnations?



10 Ways
2 Live

READ 2 Corinthians 4:4-6

Q.5 Why does the Bible make a connection between lying and the devil?

Q.6 What is meant by the title “the god of this age”?

Q.7 What according to verse 6 is the remedy humans need?

Three Arenas of Deception

1. Lying to self

Look at Philippians 2:3 and Romans 12:3

Q.8 What are some of the ways people lie to themselves?

Q.9 Why is it seemingly so hard to know right from wrong today?

2. Lying to God

READ Acts 4:32-5:11

Q.10 What was Ananias and Sapphira’s crime?

Q.11 What might have been their motivations and thinking?

Q.12 What does the outcome for Ananias and Sapphira imply to us about seriousness of deception?



3. Lying to neighbour

A. The destructive lie

Some biblical examples:

◆ John 11:47-53

◆ Gen 39:6-19

B. The defensive lie

e.g. Mark 14:26-31

Q.13 What other forms of deception can you think of towards our neighbours? Can you cite any biblical examples?

What’s the remedy?

READ Ephesians 4:17-25

Learning the truth, Loving the truth, Living the truth

Q.14 What fundamental changes does the passage teach us need to take place in people? How are they attained?

READ Ephesians 4:29,31

Q.15 What important practical advice can you glean from this passage?

READ Galatians 5:21-22